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SECTION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Artillery at Vratsa

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The artillery barracks is on a little hill about 500 m west of the town, surrounded by barbed wire, and occupying an area of 50 x 250 m. It consists of a two-story staff and office building, two two-story quarters, a one-story quarters, three stables, two garages for guns and a one-story depot building. All the buildings are old and in bad repair.
2. The barracks is occupied by a motorized artillery section, which down to the beginning of 1953 was horse-drawn, then slowly but progressively received its motor equipment. At present the unit has 4 or 5 passenger cars, 6 or 8 German towing units and 12 or 13 trucks.

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4. The most recent recruits arrived in Oct 1952 when 100 to 200 south Bulgarians joined the section. They took basic Infantry training until Dec 1952, marching out daily and taking target practice once a week. Morale was generally poor because food was insufficient and the men were not allowed to leave the barracks except for exercises.
5. Near the barracks and 1,000 m northwest of Vratis is the exercise area, about 1.5 to 2 by 11 to 12 km. It has 10 wooden barracks, a staff building and a small munitions depot. It has permanent gun positions and mobile targets. This fall it was evacuated except for a guard.

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